RADIO-PERCEPTION

THE JOURNAL OF THE

BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

Vol. VI No. 44 JUNE, 1944

CONTENTS

	Page
Notices	1
Members	3
A Dowser's Diary	3
Part One	
Some Notes on the Mechanics of Dowsing	5
B.S.D. Research in Dowsing and Radiesthesia	18
Part Two	
An Instrument based on the Bovis Biometre	26
Part Three	
Dowsing from Photographs	31
Map Dowsing for Oil	34
Notes and News	36
Letters to the Editor	37
Review	40

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BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

(*a*) To encourage the study of all matters connected with the perception of radiation by the human organism with or without an instrument.

(*b*) To spread information amongst members, by means of a journal, lectures and other means, about the use of dowsing for geophysical, medical and agricultural and other purposes and for tracing objects animate or inanimate.

(*c*) To keep a register of dowsers for water, minerals, oil, and for other purposes.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

I.—Membership.

The Society is open to all persons interested in radiation-perception.

The Council has power to appoint honorary members.

II.—Entrance Fee and Subscription.

(*a*) The entrance fee for permanent residents in Great Britain is 10/6, and the annual subscription is 10/-.

(*b*) The entrance fee for permanent residents overseas is 10/6, and the annual subscription 5/-.

The subscriptions under (*a*) and (*b*) may be compounded for by the payment of a Life Member's subscription of six guineas or of three guineas respectively.

The Council is empowered to decide any special cases in connection with the payment of subscriptions.

III.—Management.

The Society will be managed by a Council consisting of a President, who will act as Chairman, and five members, one of whom will act as Treasurer and Secretary.

The President and members will be replaced as necessary by the Council, appointments being confirmed at a General Meeting.

All questions regarding the publication of the journal, lectures, meetings, allocations of funds to promote the objects and interests of the Society, will be settled by the Council.

Decisions of the Council will be arrived at by correspondence if necessary, the facts being recorded in the Minute Book.

Decisions will be decided by a majority vote, the Chairman having a casting vote.

The Council has power to co-opt other members for special purposes.

IV.— Accounts.

The financial year will be from July 1st to June 30th.

Audited accounts will be published annually within two months after the end of the financial year.

V.—General Meeting.

A General Meeting will be held annually, and other meetings when considered necessary by the Council.

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Vol. VI. No. 44 June, 1944

NOTICES

The result of the voting on the alterations to the Rules as set forth in the Special Notice on page 295 of No. 42 (December) Journal shows a majority of 191 to 11 in favour of the alterations.

The new rates of subscription and the entrance fee will therefore come into force from July 1st, 1944, that is to say, there will be an entrance fee of 10/6 for all new members, the annual subscription from members resident in Great Britain being 10/-, and for members overseas 5/-.

Any time after entrance annual subscriptions may be commuted by a Life Membership payment of 6 guineas for home and 3 guineas for overseas members.

Great Britain includes England, Wales and Scotland and the islands which are officially part of them. The Isle of Man is not included in Great Britain.

Members who already pay by Bank Order are asked to cance the existing order and to substitute the enclosed forml after completing it and erasing the words " now and."

Members who have not yet signed a Bank Order are invited to do so. They should send the order to their Bank through the Hon. Treasurer (at 56 Oxhey Road, Watford, Herts.) for registration.

Overseas members who wish to use the form should substitute " Five shillings " for the " Ten shillings " on the form.

Members resident at home whose subscriptions have not been received by August 1st, 1944, will be considered to have resigned.

Home members who have already paid the Life Membership subscription of three guineas are invited to supplement it.

* * * * *

Dr. Munro and Miss Macqueen have resigned from the Council. In accordance with Rule III Mr. O. F. Parker was invited to fill one of the vacancies and has kindly consented to do so, subject to the appointment being confirmed at the next General Meeting.

* * * * *

Members will observe that with this number of the *Journal*, the first of Volume VI, a change has been made in the title and internal arrangement. Part I deals with dowsing as an operation

accountable by the laws of Physics as at present recognised, and also with dowsing from the historical point of view: Part II with its medical application; whilst the psychical aspect of dowsing is confined as far as possible to Part III.

* * * * *

Will any member who has copies of numbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the *Journal* to dispose of, either free or on payment, please communicate with the Editor.

* * * * *

A list of books in the B.S.D. Library, that which was published in *B.S.D.J.* 35, with a few additions, can be obtained from the Editor on application.

* * * * *

Copies of *Dowsing*, by Captain W. H. Trinder, can be obtained from Colonel A. H. Bell, York House, Portugal Street, London, W.C.2, at 6s. 4d. for members and 8s. 4d. for non-members.

* * * * *

The price of *Journals* to non-members is 1s. 6d.

The price of new *Journals* to members, in excess of the free number, and of old *Journals*, is 1/- and 9d. respectively.

Six free copies of the *Journal* will be given on request to writers of articles in it, in addition to the usual copy.

* * * * *

Whalebone strips cut to the following dimensions can be obtained from Messrs. Devine and Co. Ltd., St. Stephen's Road, Old Ford, London, E.3, at the price of 5/- per rod (2 strips):—

Flat: 12in. long x 7mm. wide x 2mm. or 3mm. thick
Circular: 12in. long x 3mm. or 4mm. in diameter
Square: 12in. long x 3mm. or 4mm. square section

Rods made of strips of these sizes have been tested by a number of dowsers and are recommended by the B.S.D. Investigation Committee.

Spherical whale-ivory pendulums can also be supplied at 8/- each. Prices for rods and pendulums prepared to specific dimensions are given on request.

All prices are post free in U.K.

* * * * *

The Society's badges can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary. Owing to the increased cost of postage the price is now 1s. 2d., post free.

* * * * *

Communications for the Editor, and inquiries, should be sent to Colonel A. H. Bell, York House, Portugal Street, London, W.C.2.

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A Dowser's Diary

The late Lord Chetwynd was a man of many parts, and something of an inventive genius. During the war of 1914-18 he had been Manager of the Chilwell Filling Factory, and had previously been a Director of Vickers. His activities and interests were wide and numerous.

In 1934 he went out to Vancouver. Soon after his arrival he seems to have acquired a copy of *The Modern Dowser* and, finding that he was himself a natural dowser, took up the art with whole-hearted enthusiasm.

From April, 1934, with a few intervals till March, 1936, he kept a full and careful diary of his experiments and activities. In the hope that this diary might contain matter of interest to members of the Society, a friend of Lord Chetwynd has kindly allowed me to examine it.

Lord Chetwynd began by experimenting with two sticks of willow tied together at one end and having learnt to locate water

and gauge the depth correctly turned his attention to minerals. Observing that *The Modern Dowser* refers only to samples when the pendulum, and not the rod, is being used, he made various experiments to discover the best method of placing the sample, and came to the conclusion it was most effective at the end of the sticks near the fork. On this principle he made rods which were selective to one particular metal only, using as a sample for oil cotton wool soaked in the liquid inserted in cavities in the two ends of the sticks. He does not appear to have tried carrying a sample in his hand or on his person.

He had early observed the effect of an emanation which produced *rémanance* by noting that the rod for gold would react to a place on the carpet after a gold cigarette case had been removed therefrom, and later used whalebone rods which depended for their selectivity on the fact that they were normally kept with the fork in contact with the appropriate metal in a special cylindrical case.

He noticed that rods, or rather the human body, possessed polarity and that the best response was obtained when the same branch of the rod was always held in the same hand.

For estimating depth he used a method of beats, *i.e.*, of a regulated stamping of the foot, and obtained a scale of coefficients by which one beat represented so many feet; for instance, 16 feet for water, 8 feet for gold, and so on. This method does not seem to have been very reliable, and towards the end of the diary he records that more consistent results were obtained when he always started the beats with the same foot.

Between the end of May and the end of December, 1934, he was constantly engaged in investigating mineral deposits in the southern part of British Columbia and in advising owners of ranches, prospectors and others on the position of reefs of gold, silver, cinnabar, cryolite and other minerals.

He found he could pick up the direction of mineral reefs from a considerable distance and so, by travelling in a car, could rapidly obtain crossbearings on any objective.

From January, 1935, he spent most of his time in southern Texas, where he found numerous indications of gold, oil, silver and platinum. He was told many stories of buried treasure and came across a book called *Coronado's Children*, by J. Frank Dobie, which gave the history of a number of such deposits. Some of them he endeavoured to locate and unearth without definite result. At the time the diary ends he was engaged in making excavations to discover the San Saba treasure which had been buried in 1758, having obtained indications at a spot near Goldthwaite.

The diary ends on March 16th, a few days before his death.

THE EDITOR

PART ONE

SOME NOTES ON THE MECHANICS OF DOWSING

BY GUY UNDERWOOD

For some time I have been engaged upon experiments in connection with the mechanical side of water divining, and it has occurred to me that some of my experiences and observations might be of interest to other dowsers.

My own interest in dowsing was aroused by being a member of a waterworks committee of a small country district. We had employed a civil engineer to find a suitable site for new wells and considerable objections had been raised to the site selected. The main objection was that it was within 40 yards of the river and therefore likely to be contaminated. Some suspicions were also voiced that that situation had been selected so that, if we should fail to hit a spring, we should be likely to get water by fissures or percolation from the river, and so could not say that he had failed to find water for us!

We therefore decided to employ a professional water diviner to survey our area and to locate, if possible, an alternative site free from the disadvantages of the first one.

Actually we might have saved our trouble and expense, as the water diviner confirmed that the site was a good one. We subsequently discovered that the engineer, when he made his survey, had himself brought with him a village dowser who had really located the site. This is one of the few instances that I have come across of geological knowledge being combined with dowsing skill, which is the perfect combination. The engineer was in consequence completely exonerated from our unjust suspicions and the only criticism to which, in my mind, he was open was that he kept it dark that he had employed a dowser whereas he should have been proud of his good sense.

It may be of some interest that the village dowser could not tell the depth, or the flow, except that it was a strong stream. The professional water diviner estimated a depth of 40 feet and a flow of about 1,500 gallons per hour. We sank the well and got an enormous supply of water at 35 feet. We could not empty it, even with the pumps extracting over 10,000 gallons per hour. It was evident that double that amount was available.

This astonishing supply once again aroused our suspicions that water was coming from the river. I therefore took the levels and found to my surprise that the rest level of the water in the well was some feet below that of the river, so it was clear that there could be no connection. Once again everybody was vindicated (except ourselves!). We heard later that the fee that the village dowser received for locating this marvellous supply was 5s.!

I was deputed to accompany the water diviner when he made his survey and was greatly interested in the proceedings. Afterwards the usual performance was given—of breaking the twigs and the like—which did not impress me much, and I was disappointed to find that I was not a good natural dowser. I could never be certain whether the movement of the twig was due to the water, to autosuggestion or to some unintentional spasmodic movement of my own hands.

I had had no previous experience of dowsing and the whole thing was a mystery to me. The rod appeared to move automatically, and I could quite understand the awe with which dowsers are sometimes regarded by the uninstructed. I felt sure, however, that there must be some natural explanation and, with the optimism of the neophyte, decided to try to find out what it was.

In the first place I could not admit any psychic influence. I was brought up to believe that where there is a physical effect there must be a physical cause. This axiom is actually the basis of all pure science.

To ascribe a physical effect to a supernatural cause seems to me to be an admission that the experimenter has been unable to find the real cause, and to be a form of begging the question. It is a reversion to the bad habit of our ancestors of attributing to witchcraft any physical phenomenon which they did not understand.

I was also quite unable to accept the usual statement that some few people were sensitive to the water influence while the great majority were entirely insensitive. This did not seem to me to have any logical or physiological basis. We are all made to the same pattern and have the same senses—the only difference between one and another being one of degree.

What seemed to me to be far more likely was that the power to sense the presence of underground water is, in fact, an atavism—that is to say, the survival of a faculty of our remote ancestors in the process of becoming atrophied by disuse in their remote descendants.

All animals have atavisms. The best known among human beings is the power to "wiggle" our ears. Some people can do this with considerable agility, but most of us can hardly make any visible movement at all, although we all have the muscles and nerves enabling us to do so.

Scientists tell us that, at one period, our remote ancestors were "amphibious denizens of the primeval ooze." If so, it is not unreasonable so suppose that they would have found it essential in times of drought to be able to sense the near presence of underground water. Those who could do so would have had a chance of survival, and of passing their powers to their descendants, while those who did not possess that power would

die out.

It follows, therefore, that if the power of dowsing is an atavism, all human beings must possess it to some degree.

My first effort was to make myself a competent dowser with the twig, and I did not have great difficulty in this as soon as I realised that it depended very largely upon the twig being held correctly.

The usual dowser's twig is somewhat crude as a mechanical instrument, and my next object was to produce some rod or contrivance which would be more sensitive and which therefore any normal person should be able to use with success.

My feeling was that if such an instrument could be evolved more people would become interested in dowsing, and that, with a larger number of people making observations, more light might be thrown upon it. I also felt that it would help to settle finally some of the many points upon which dowsers disagree. It seems to me that these disagreements and contradictions cause many thinking people to feel that the whole thing is based upon imagination and humbug. If these contradictions could be eliminated, there would be far more chance of persuading scientific men to take it seriously, which, at the present time and in the majority of cases, they certainly do not.

I must have made hundreds of rods of all possible materials, shapes, sizes and kinds before I found any real improvement. I made them of all kinds of twig, of bamboo, steel, brass, bronze and copper wire, clock springs, whalebone, glass rods with springs attached, rods with ball-bearing handles, angle rods, pendulums, pendulum rods with indicators attached and bow rods. As light relief I made rods with electrical attachments to light a lamp or ring a bell when over water! I even attached a long length of gut to a chain of clock springs to see whether protein was directly affected by the influence, but without result.

At last I got one which seemed to work well, and it came as a surprise.

I was at that time working upon two theories. The first was that if one hand was less affected by the influence than the other, then the more inert one might check the action of the rod caused by the movement of the active one. The second theory was that friction might be a limiting factor.

I therefore made a rod depending for its action upon the movement of one hand only and in which friction was eliminated as much as possible. This rod is illustrated below and is probably known to some members of the B.S.D. It is called the "Oasis" Pocket Divining Rod or "Water Balance." It consists of a lever attached by a flexible joint to a stem which is free to revolve in a hollow metal handle. The lever is pulled into tension, and into a state of unstable equilibrium, by means of a cord or wire. It is held as shown in the illustration.

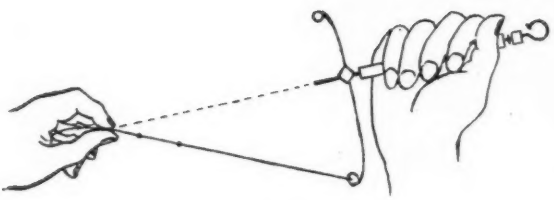

FIG. 1.

This rod worked excellently and with vigour and alacrity. The indicator went down at once on coming over a stream and moved in the reverse direction when over the "Edge influences," and went down again when crossing the parallels. It reacted to metal pipes, street gullies and even to sewers and mole drains. On the whole I was very pleased with it.

It was, however, in consequence of its sensitiveness, somewhat unstable and tended to waver considerably as the dowser walked. This was disconcerting to beginners, but the wavering was easily distinguishable from the stronger and more steady movements when over the stream.

It had the advantage that it did not "flick," and have to be re-gripped, as is often the case with the twig. When its equilibrium was upset it automatically found another position of equilibrium and retained that until that also was upset. It therefore gave a continuous reading with automatic recovery, which is a great help when marking out a stream.

I tried it on my friends and found that even in the hands of the most derisive and obstinate it would work—often to their great disappointment! A very difficult case was a clergyman, so it may be that the power to dowse has some relation to our spiritual state. Another and even more uphill job was a friend who is a distinguished research engineer. He was a particularly tough proposition, as he had tried at various times to use a twig and had obtained no response. He was convinced that it was all humbug and autosuggestion. Also he had a very good joke on the subject to the effect that he had not got the "divine afflatus."

However, one day, when he was in a weak mood, I managed to get him to try the Oasis Rod and set him going over a small stream. I shall always remember his look of astonishment and exasperation when the rod worked well. The convictions of a lifetime had been upset and a good joke undermined! I was sorry to have somewhat spoiled his joke, but do not anticipate that this will stop him from making it again should a suitable occasion arise. It would not stop me!

I had, therefore, progressed one step forward. I had got a

contrivance which could be put into the hands of the most sceptical and contumacious and, provided that he did not deliberately try to stop it working, it would work. In other words, it went some way towards dispelling the idea, held by so many of our Intelligentsia, that dowsing has no real existence.

I still had no means of estimating the quantity of water flowing except such a rough guide as the width of the stream and the vigour with which the rod acted. I was also without any means of ascertaining depth other than by the "Bishop's Rule" of the parallels which in the opinion of many dowsers is unreliable.

Anyone familiar with Sir William Barrett's book, *The Divining Rod*, and the many investigated and verified records of well-known dowsers given there, must feel that these people had some reasonably reliable means of estimating both depth and flow. Like most professional and business men who have trade secrets, they seem to have done their best to keep these to themselves, and to have been remarkably successful in doing so.

When giving particulars of their work for publication it is observable that while appearing to be frank they are noticeably evasive. Although what they say is no doubt true as far as it goes it does not usually go very far. Their usual answer to the question as to how they estimate either depth or flow is "By the pull of the rod coupled with experience," or words to that effect. This leaves the enquirer very much where he was, and, I think, rightly so. Most of us have done it thoughtlessly, but obviously it is not fair to ask a man for secrets upon which his livelihood depends. Such men are no believers in the saying that "secrecy is alien to the spirit of science." The lack of it is alien to their bread and butter! There can be no harm, however, in finding these things out for yourself by experiment, as they have done, if you can.

These famous dowsers were, as a general rule, simple and uneducated men. They may have acquired some knowledge of geology later, but when they first made their names as dowsers there is little doubt that they had none. They must, therefore, have relied upon some physical phenomena, observable by the senses and of a simple and fairly obvious nature.

To find these things, and to keep them to themselves, they had the advantage that they were peculiarly sensitive to the dowsing influence. Very few other people were equally so. Therefore few were likely to obtain the same reactions, or to the same extent, as they did, and, in consequence, to be able to interpret the meaning of them.

I felt, however, that if less sensitive dowsers could be provided with instruments which would, so far as sensitiveness was concerned, put them on the same plane as these super-dowsers, then it should not be difficult to indentify and interpret the physical phenomena upon which they relied. This was largely my aim

in designing a more sensitive rod. I hope to show that to a limited extent it has already thrown a little light upon the subject.

It is surprising how greatly preconceived ideas can prevent the realisation of the significance of unexpected facts. In other words, how difficult it is to appreciate the obvious. The Oasis Rod was intended to act in the same way as a twig—to go down over the stream band and parallels and up over the edge influences. It showed some peculiarities, however, and I noticed that the indicator, instead of merely going down over a stream, would sometimes continue its motion until it had made one or more continuous revolutions in the same direction. When over the edge influence it would do the same but in the reverse direction. It would make a number of revolutions when crossing a wide stream, and would always give approximately the same number in crossing the same stream. At first I tried to stop this, but later found it useful, as it gave a better and steadier indication of the stream and was a help in tracing crossing streams. These rotations would occur only when the "pull point" was kept fully advanced.

Later, I found that if I stood still when I had entered the stream band, then the indicator would continue to rotate for a certain number of times according to the stream and then "kick back"—that is to say, stop and reverse a little.

It would do this with reasonable consistency with any stream—the margin of error was about 10 per cent. and could be averaged. The number of rotations so obtained was greater than that obtained on crossing the stream, the latter depending upon the time it took me to cross it.

I then tried it on other streams and they all gave differing results from the first stream but consistent results so far as their own revolution numbers were concerned. I was thus able to classify each stream as a 4 rev., 7 rev. or 20 rev. stream, as the case might be. It was evident that these differences were not due to depth, as streams at identical depths gave differing revolution numbers.

I had, therefore, at last made a step towards measuring flow—that is to say, that with two streams, running under the same conditions and at the same depth, I could distinguish between the one with the greater flow and the one with the lesser—a thing I could not do before with certainty.

It was, however, somewhat slow. To test a stream the hands had to be kept still, with the muscles flexed, so long as the rotations continued, usually for about a minute. If a series of tests is taken, as an enthusiast is apt to do, it is tiring to the muscles of the wrist and forearm, and becomes tedious.

I made various alterations to relieve this, including rods in which the pull cord was supplanted by a spring wire forming a continuation of the indicator. (See Fig. 2). These were put

into tension by pushing forward the bead at the end of the indicator wire until approximately in line with the axis of rotation. They worked quite well, but had the same disadvantages and were not convenient for the pocket.

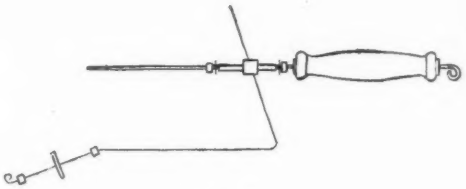

FIG. 2.

So far as indicating the presence of water is concerned, the rod works upon exactly the same principle as the twig, that is to say, it depends on a twisting movement of the wrist due to an alteration of the tone of the forearm muscles. The explanation of the revolutions is not so simple.

The most obvious explanation is that when the dowser comes over a stream then the point of the rod becomes depressed slightly, thus upsetting the equilibrium and causing the indicator to make a half revolution downwards. When this has occurred all thrusts are reversed in direction (owing to the crank) and a different set of muscles is brought into tension. These muscles are in turn affected by the stream influence and a further half revolution upwards is caused, and so on.

I can offer no explanation for the astonishing stoppage of the revolutions after a certain number have taken place over a given stream. Theoretically, these should go on continuously so long as the dowser is within the influence causing them.

It has sometimes occurred to me that there is some evidence of a pulsating effect caused by the dowser's ray. Several scientific students of dowsing have called attention to this, but it does not seem to me to be fully substantiated yet.

Dr. J. A. Simpson Elmslie, in an address given to the B.S.D. in 1935 (*B.S.D.J.*, Vol. II., p. 106) stated, "I am quite sure that a small rhythmic movement occurs in the arms when we use the rod, but it is so small that it is difficult to demonstrate." He suggests that it is the cause of the dowsing action of the pendulum and that it is a form of clonus. Clonus is a spasm with alternate contraction and relaxation of the muscles. Most people have experienced a modified form of this after sitting in a chair with the feet on the floor. If the heels are raised from the floor a jerking rhythmic movement takes place in the legs and continues until the heels are replaced on the ground.

Mr. J. R. Parkinson, A.M.I.E.E., in an article (*B.S.D.J.*,

Vol. V., p. 8) suggests that the dowsing reaction is due to two radiations of slightly differing wavelengths which produce "beats" of a very much lower frequency than either current. The best known example of a "beat" is the throb of a twin-engined aircraft when the engines are not completely synchronised. He states that "In the human body its own natural frequency is produced . . . probably round about that of water itself, of which the body contains about 75 per cent. This human frequency by phasing in . . . with a radiation coming from the substance divined results in a 'beat' frequency of a lower number per second" than the frequency of either radiation.

These rhythmic movements may, therefore, be the cause of the dowsing movements of the pendulum, the Oasis rod and of the remarkable rods used by some of the old French dowsers.

I still, however, incline to my original opinion that the revolutions are due to a reversal of direction of the forces, bringing new muscles into tension, my reason being that the rotations are not at the same speed, as they would be if caused by a beat, but become slower and weaker towards the end.

Most dowsers have experienced rotations of the rod when using the old-fashioned twig, held in the fists. It is more likely to occur with a smooth twig held "palms down" and if we help it a little! Also, the more sensitive the dowser the more likely it is to happen. I have noticed it with most village dowsers, who are usually very sensitive. They do, however, tend to exaggeration and showmanship. In my experience they usually appear to attach little significance to it except to judge the strength of the pull from tightness of the grip necessary to check it. One told me that it would go on for ever as long as he was over a stream and that if he stopped it he would die! I could not get him to stand still on the stream band and see whether it would stop of its own accord. He also flatly refused to try to stop the revolutions, so as to see whether this would kill him or not, thus obstructing an interesting scientific experiment and showing a regrettable lack of public spirit!

The rotation of the rod is recorded in descriptions of the work of practically every well-known dowser. There are many references to it in Sir Wm. Barrett's book, in relation to John Mullins and others. Benjamin Tompkins in his book *Springs of Water* states that when over the stream "the twig revolves over and over and I am powerless to keep it still." In a letter to *The Times* of 7th October, 1882, Mr. E. Vaughan Williams described a boy dowser in whose hands "the rod commenced to revolve, and although the lad tried to stop its motion he was obliged to let it go." Mr. Leicester Gataker, who was dowsing about 1890, stated that "the forked twig revolved, and continued to do so, independently of his volition, so long as he remained over water." (Barrett, *The Divining Rod*, p. 152).

Some students of dowsing, however, have expressed the opinion that the rotations cannot occur naturally. For example, Mr. Cecil Maby, in his *Physics of the Divining Rod*, p. 18, says: "Nor is there any power to cause a dowser's wrist to twist over and over (along with the rod) so as to cause a series of complete rotations of the indicator, as some melodramatic and auto-suggestable subjects like to pretend or believe."

In the *B.S.D.J.*, Vol. IV., p. 334, he refers to "some dowsers' serial revolutions," and comments, "none of the more skilful physiological or 'straight' dowsers we have observed get more than a quarter turn of the rod, either up or down, according to the nature of the grip."

I must admit that at one time I was of a similar opinion to Mr. Maby, and supposed that the rotations of the rod by dowsers was merely showmanship. There can, however, be little doubt that the rotation is a motion capable of being caused by explicable physical reactions, and that it does occur naturally with many dowsers who use the old conventional "fist" hold and also the old type of twig. If fact, it depends largely upon "the nature of the grip."

The only record I have been able to find of any dowser relying upon the number of revolutions of the rod as a gauge of the flow of the stream is that of Mrs. K. H. Dale, in *Water Divining*, by Theodore Besterman, where full particulars are given of her technique and of some of her cases.

Mrs. Dale divides streams into nine grades according to the volume of the flow, and for this purpose "starts to grade by walking across it at right angles and noting the number of complete revolutions of the rod (these may vary from 1 to 20). Next she gets the width of the stream. . . . The combination of the two will give her an approximate idea of the stream grade."

Major C. A. Pogson uses a cranked rod, known as the "motor-scope." The basis of its design was that it is not possible to hold the usual dowser's twig so that both arms of it are equal. The twig operates therefore as a crude eccentric. This being so, it was better to use a plain eccentric.

By the movements of this rod Major Pogson is able to judge the depth of the stream and the location of the strata and to obtain some idea of the nature of the latter, and also to estimate the flow.

So far as I am aware, he has never published his methods. He makes no secret of them, however, and I hope that he will make them public. The soundness of his methods may be judged from his extraordinary success.

For some years he acted as official water diviner to the Bombay Government in localities believed to be entirely deficient in water supplies and where normal geological methods of finding water for the peasant farmers had resulted in failure. He made 750

surveys and located 465 sites for wells. In Mr. Besterman's book it is stated that out of 133 wells sunk at one period, only two were failures—that is to say, 1½ per cent. Such a result is far better than the average successes of geologists anywhere. In addition, the work was done in districts in which no geologists could find water at all!

It is stated in an official report that by his negative reports alone—that is to say, reports that on certain sites no water was likely to be found—it was estimated that he had saved the farmers over 270,000 rupees which they would otherwise have spent in sinking useless wells.

Atmospheric conditions affect the working of the rod considerably, but only so far as the number of rotations is concerned. Over a stream from which I get, say, 20 revolutions on a fine dry day in the summer, I only get 12 when the air is damp, as in the winter time when all the land is sodden with moisture. On an extremely damp and overcast day I may only get 10 revolutions for the same stream. This appears to be due primarily to humidity in the atmosphere, as the full summer revolutions are restored during a sharp frost. In the winter it is necessary, therefore, to add about two-thirds to the revolutions obtained in order to obtain a standard comparable reading. I usually call these corrected revolutions "Dry revolutions" or "D. revs." to distinguish them from the actual revolutions obtained.

A sharp shower of rain in the summer will not, however, affect the D. revs., and the real cause of the reduction appears to be a state of what we call "mugginess," which presumably affects the electrical condition of the atmosphere. It is interesting to note that Bléton's sensibility was greater in dry weather and that John Mullins would not dowse except in dry times.

Having a rod the movements of which varied with the flow of the stream to a measurable extent, the next step was to calibrate it. This I found a long and difficult job.

The number of revs. increased with the flow and decreased with the depth. It was necessary to test the rod over a number of streams of known, but varying, depth and flow. These lie far apart, and travel just now is difficult.

I found at a Water Works a good stream of 40,000 gallons per hour at a depth of 150 feet, and this gave 26 D. revs. This stream was in the Greensand under Chalk. It was obvious that if the revs. were multiplied by the depth (to make an index figure) and if then the index was multiplied by a factor of 10 it gave the approximate flow of this stream, and I assumed, as a starting point, that it might do the same for other streams. I tested this against a number of streams of known depth and flow and it turned out to be surprisingly accurate with large streams of about 3,500 index and over. Under this size it exaggerated the flow to an increasing extent as the index became smaller.

I therefore use the following scale for finding the factor :—
For a stream giving an index number of

up to	50	I use a factor of $\frac{1}{2}$
	75	,, $\frac{3}{4}$
	100	,, 1
	150	,, $1\frac{1}{2}$
	200	,, 2
	350	,, 3
	600	,, 4
	1,000	,, 5
	1,500	,, 6
	2,100	,, 7
	2,750	,, 8
	3,500	,, 9
over	3,500	,, 10

EXAMPLES

1. A stream giving 6 D. revs. at a depth of 12 feet. The index (6 x 12) equals 72. The factor is $\frac{3}{4}$. 72 x $\frac{3}{4}$ equals 54 gallons per hour.

2. A stream giving 6 D. revs. at depth of 30 feet. The index (6 x 30) equals 180. The factor is 2. 180 x 2 equals 360 g.h.

3. A stream giving 11 D. revs. at a depth of 155 feet. The index (11 x 155) equals 1,705. The factor is 7. 1,705 x 7 gives a flow of 11,935 g.h.

It will be noticed that depth is an essential part of this method. To find the depth I use the Bishop's Rule— that is to say that I assume the depth to be the distance from the centre of the streamband to the centre of the inner parallels. I have found this satisfactory for gauging. I call this distance the " nominal depth," as it does not necessarily give the real depth. Certain formations above the stream, and especially strata of wet clay, have the effect of shortening the distance to the parallels.

The scale given is a rough and provisional guide, but has been found approximately correct in many cases. I have not, so far, met any of those devastating discrepancies which those engaging in research naturally expect. It is, in fact, based on trial and error.

I doubt whether streams running in conduits or earthenware pipes can be gauged satisfactorily. They do give some reaction, and in the case of two streams, both at a depth of about two feet, giving respectively 2,700 and 1,500 gallons per hour, the revs. were 15 and 8 respectively. In order, therefore, to have gauged the flows with the rod it would have been necessary to multiply the index by 90. I have not so far been able to gauge water in metal pipes.

No reaction is obtained from rivers, streams or other water flowing on the surface. If there is an underflow in connection

with a river this will give a reaction. An underflow is a separate stream, running underground, sometimes found in connection with a river and roughly following its course but entirely separate from it.

The late John Timms, although he obtained good reactions to nickel, gold, silver and copper, obtained none from iron or steel. In *The Divining Rod* two cases are given which suggest that John Mullins obtained no reaction from iron pipes unless water was flowing in them. The Oasis rod does, however, in my experience, give clear and definite reactions to all metal objects, including iron.

With regard to large iron objects I get the following results in winter :—

Surface water street gulley. Weight about ½cwt.	3—4 revs.
Heavier sewer cover. About 1cwt.	5—6 ,,
Lamp post. Estimated at 3cwt. (standing beside it)	4 ,,
Iron farm gate with vertical pales 1-2cwt. (standing beside it)	6—8 ,,
Weighbridge. About 1-2 tons	10 ,,

Results are about two-thirds more in dry weather.

One peculiarity about metal objects on the surface as distinct from underground streams is that the influence extends all round them and is not definitely vertical as with underground streams. The results from gates and lamp posts were taken with the hands close to the object and the body about two feet away. The influence of the gates could be felt weakly about four feet away. The results for the other objects were obtained when standing over them.

The influence of metals appears to be in proportion to the mass within a certain distance. For example, a 6-inch iron pipe half-a-mile long gave only the same reaction that was given by a separate section of it about 9 feet long. The difference when 6,000 gallons per hour was and was not being pumped through the pipe line was very small indeed.

Small metal objects, such as coins, give no reaction with me unless vertically under my body—that is to say, between my heels. This suggests that the influence from metal objects is stronger vertically than laterally, and also suggests that the Dowsing Influence affects directly and primarily the nerve centres (located in the spine and brain) rather than, in the first place, the afferent nerves, as in our sense of touch.

Coin finding—that is to say, picking out from a row of otherwise empty envelopes the one containing a coin—is, incidentally, an entertaining game. Some people are better at it than others, but I have known a sensitive dowser able to distinguish between a halfpenny, a penny and a half-crown.

The question whether you are likely to obtain winter revs. or D. revs. is sometimes difficult. On a fine breezy day in the

summer D. revs. are practically certain, but, if the day is dull or if you are dowsing in a shut-in situation, winter revs. may result. In my experience, humidity, although the main factor, is not the only one.

A hygrometer, therefore, is not an infallible guide, but, if the relative percentage of humidity is over 70, winter revs. may result, and, if over 75, they are very probable. I find that a large lump of metal is a better test, and, when in doubt, I test my rod over a street gulley if one is near. If I get only 3 revs. from this, I know that they are winter revs. If, however, I get 5 revs., I can rely on D. revs. When not sure, it is clearly safest to assume that you are getting summer revs.

I have been experimenting recently with a new rod, in which I have some hopes. It is developed from the rods previously described, but is specially intended for gauging flow. I call it the "Roto-gauge." Its main advantage is that when used for gauging it is quicker in action. When used for surveying, the dowser can walk fast, and rough ground or shaking do not affect it to any serious extent. It is not so easy to use or so sensitive in some ways as the Oasis. It needs some practice, but, as soon as the knack has been acquired, I think that it will be found satisfactory. It is now being tested by various dowsers. I hope to describe it more fully later.

In this article I have somewhat concentrated upon flow, as I feel that this is the most difficult problem which the dowser has to face. These sensitive rods have, however, thrown some light upon the interesting and significant phenomenon of the parallels, and I hope to write an article shortly upon them and their relation to depth.

No claim is made that the method I have described is an exact means of measuring flow. The use of it is somewhat like buying peas by the handful—the handfuls will vary, but can be averaged, and some sort of standard obtained.

It enables the dowser to make an approximate measurement of the strength of the reactions, and thus of the flow. He is, therefore, able to make a comparison of these reactions, and this is an essential and vital part of all successful dowsing. With all its weaknesses it is a great help to the dowser until some automatic measuring instrument can be evolved.

All new knowledge of the characteristics of the dowsing force is a step towards solving the problem of its identity. I hope that the phenomena described may be of sufficient interest to lead others to carry out investigations themselves, keeping in mind that autosuggestion is the pitfall of all dowsing experiments, and that nothing new can be accepted as a fact until it has been fully proved by a very large number of tests.

Dowsing is a highly skilled job. It has been well said that a good dowser is one who is able to notice minute differences and to interpret them correctly.

B.S.D. RESEARCH IN DOWSING AND RADIESTHESIA

PROGRESS REPORT BY J. CECIL MABY, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.A.S.

General Remarks

Since the publication of *The Physics of the Divining Rod* in 1939, half the copies of which were, alas, lost by enemy action, Mr. T. B. Franklin, M.A., F.R.S.E., and the writer, assisted by several other members of the Society (notably Captain W. H. Trinder and Mr. L. E. Eeman) have endeavoured to advance the subject as far and as fast as the war has allowed. Occasional hints regarding this work have been made in the *Journal* in the form of short papers by one or other of us and by the President, Colonel A. H. Bell, in his Annual Report. But as over four years have now elapsed without any detailed account of our findings having appeared, and as another year is likely to pass before a sequel to our first book can be contemplated, it may be well to epitomise as broadly as possible the general trend of these investigations. The medical aspect is omitted.

As we have now enough material in hand for another large volume on Dowsing and Radiesthesia, the force of which would be lost by either undue condensation or premature discussion, it is not proposed to enter into any details or explanations in this article. So that members will, unfortunately, have to possess themselves in patience a little longer, pending a full account. But I should like, meanwhile, to convey heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Society and this laboratory for the kind and generous financial support (see reports of recent annual meetings) of a number of our members, which has enabled us to carry on despite the war. I can only hope that they will, in due course, feel rewarded for their trust and self-sacrifice in these difficult times, also assure them that their donations to the Research Fund have been, and will be, spent to the best possible advantage of dowsing and the B.S.D. At least, that is our sole aim, our time and the writer's own professional earnings having been donated to the same end.

Many letters and enquiries have been received from our members at home and abroad, dealing with practical and theoretical issues; and these have been answered and discussed, and any ideas or suggestions arising from them duly incorporated into our work. The views of engineers, geologists and physicists with whom we have come in contact—many of whom have made fair and proper, as well as some unfair and improper, criticisms of dowsers and dowsing—have also been taken into full consideration. And our experimental work and demonstrations for branches of the three fighting services (done on official request and with considerable success) have also provided invaluable opportunities

in the way of furthering the good cause. For we were, here, up against problems that had proved practically insoluble by other (instrumental) methods of detection, and we were bound to produce positively successful results free from any question of guesswork, suggestion or other subjective confusion. Hence, success, where proven (even if not 100 per cent.), was all-important. And, although our more obdurate antagonists obstinately refused to admit of such successes—as being against their individual scientific principles—they were, ultimately, unable to discount them. Whereas those official observers who suffered less bias and dogmatism freely expressed their acceptance of the demonstrable facts and their scientific interest in them for the future.

Nevertheless, our experience of war officials, the die-hard type of scientific academician and the strictly practical engineer, business man or landowner has shown that there still exists a very powerful antagonism to dowsing (even when modernised and rendered scientific) that it will take many years yet to overcome. And the way to do so will be to ensure, by use of accurate methods of location, specific diagnosis and depth and yield estimation, based on a sound physical theory, that dowsers can score successes almost *every* time instead of only sometimes—as if by mere accident.

A few well-known, highly skilled operators have, long since, consistently achieved that high standard individually, thus winning well-deserved repute. The rest, however, including many enthusiastic amateurs with their own whims and foibles, and too often acting under autosuggestion (non-physically), have very effectively queered the pitch for their more reliable confreres. And much harm has been done by such well-intentioned, but unscientific folk since the war with sceptical government and services officials.

It is, therefore, absolutely essential to the future of the subject (1) that old-fashioned, unscientific divination and merely amusing "parlour tricks" should be sharply segregated from serious radio-perception and radio-analysis, based on known physical principles and practised according to strict scientific rules; (2) that amateur dowsers should not undertake to make locations, diagnoses, &c., for friends and acquaintances where serious business is involved; (3) that interpretations and theory should be left to those competent to study and write about them, as they are undeniably "advanced" and complex; and (4) that every field dowser should know the general principles and local application of geology, and that the laboratory or medical radiesthetist should make a careful preliminary study of physical, medical and chemical principles.

Such restrictions may seem hard to the layman who is genuinely intrigued by dowsing and who finds himself gifted with radiesthetic sensitivity. But the whole of our experience over many years

of continuous enquiry and observation goes to show that they are unavoidable. It is *not* enough merely to get some sort of reaction at a given time and place with a pendulum or rod in order to say that there is water below in good supply, that there is gold or some other treasure trove, or that the subject examined is diseased in such and such a way. The case of the amateur diviner is like that of the man who asserted dogmatically that God visited him in a dream, to which the philosopher replied: "All that is certain is that you *dreamt* that God visited you." Modern science and the average man are rightly discontent to accept such affirmations at their face values. Physical proofs of a clear and repetitive kind are still needed. No amount of personal intuition of the Hitler variety will do instead.

The Correct Approach

The moral is this. If you are genuinely interested in dowsing, if you have sufficient time, money and patience to persist with your study of it over a number of weeks and, eventually, years, and if you find yourself reacting pretty strongly with a divining rod to suitable type and tension at the same places and times as an accepted professional dowser, *then*, but not otherwise, think of taking it up. And the first step will be to have your reactions tested under "blindfold" conditions to definite physical stimuli by a trained observer who is able to discern the true from the false. Next take an approved course of instruction from a reliable practitioner of the craft, and, finally, submit yourself for re-testing (as above) against field or laboratory objectives to see how you have progressed and whether you are getting real results or simply imagining things.*

If more potential dowsers and radiesthetists would follow this course of action, all would be well, and we should soon build up a stout corps of sound operators who would face the scientific and commercial works with self-assurance and public esteem. Otherwise, the subject will continue to be classed with charlatanism and superstitious magic. Hence, the duty of the B.S.D. and its members is clear.

The right spirit of scientific research in relation to radiesthesia has existed for a number of years on the Continent, particularly in France; and some competent, if not always brilliant engineers, geologists, biologists and medical men have taken a direct interest in its development. In Britain and America and the British Dominions we have, I think, lacked full organisation, and been tied too much to outworn traditions and superstitions; though first-rate work has been done by individual pioneers—as good as anything on the Continent. But the efforts of men such as

* A report of such tests by the writer on one subject will appear in a subsequent number of the *Journal*, after publication in *Radiesthesia*.

Creyke, Pogson, Merrylees and Trinder in the field, followed by the more strictly scientific analyses of Budgett, Franklin and myself, may be thought to have firmly established the general principles of successful field prospection. Whereas the medical work of Richards, Wright, Boyd, Eeman and others, following in the footsteps of the American pioneers, Abrams, Starr-White, Wigelsworth, &c., has likewise established the basic facts in another direction. Indeed, a high degree of primary agreement has now been reached amongst radiesthetic operators in every country, though insufficient literature and personal contacts have necessarily led to minor divergences and eccentricities as to individual methods and interpretations. The *facts*, however, are clear and universal.

Theory of Dowsing, &c.

Over and above the bare facts themselves, it would appear that the kind of interpretation put forward by the various schools of dowsing and radiesthesia must also be on the right general lines. Otherwise, modern field operators (trained professionals) and medical diagnosticians, using short-wave radio technique and electromagnetic (radiological) theory would not have achieved the success that they have done.

Unfortunately, though it is not so difficult to devise useful and reliable practical methods on the basis of some highly penetrating electromagnetic wave radiation of various high frequencies (depending on atomic and molecular nature of the radio-active source—*e.g.*, whether iron, copper, water, or some complex salt or organic compound), it is still extremely difficult to devise a completely satisfactory and catholic theory to explain all the phenomena. But I believe that T. B. Franklin has advanced further in that direction, especially since the publication of our original book, than anyone else. So much so that a number of his more abstruse predictions have turned up trumps in experimental practice. But the finishing touches yet remain to be added to the theory before it is, finally, advanced in physical and mathematical journals.

Meanwhile, it is safe to say that we have satisfied ourselves of the validity of the old dowsing contention that "everything radiates according to its own peculiar nature and frequency of vibration"; not only so-called radioactive matter (radium, thorium, uranium, &c.), though these are abnormally unstable and radio-active, of course. And it is interesting to see that modern physicists (*vide* Sir James Jeans in his recent *Science and Philosophy*) now admit of this universal radioactivity of matter of all kinds. So that an initial basis is provided for dowsing phenomena, apart from possible action by cosmic rays and artificial sources of excitation.

Practical Application

Such specific radiation from different sorts of stuff is very subtle and extremely difficult to detect instrumentally, though we believe that we have managed to do that, too, even down to being able to define a novel kind of spectrum analysis by "dowsing" rays—related to the French "fundamental rays." And this analytical method appears to possess both qualitative and quantitative aspects for future exact development, the whole thing having first been discovered and worked out by *physiological* (dowsing) reactions, *N.B.*

On the other hand, theoretical application of optical and electro-magnetic laws to the fields of manifestation of underground streams, pipes, electric cables, mineral veins, &c. (see our book for first steps in this direction), has yielded more and more accurate results for vertical location, depth and yield. And a simple handbook for field dowsers, showing the general forms of field encountered and how to measure and interpret them, will be published as soon as possible. Delay in this respect has been due to the war and to necessary caution over rushing into print prematurely, before such methods had had a thorough testing by several independent operators in commercial practice over a fair period of time. But such testing is now almost over, and consistent results continue to be obtained by the means in question, which are also found to apply to any dowser who cares to adopt them.

Similar advances have also been made in the use of a direction-finding technique—most suitable for relatively small or compact objectives. This depends, again, on radio principles, and it confirms the contentions and technique of many traditional dowsers, using samples and/or high frequency radio "tuning" to define the given source.

Yet another practical application, already mentioned in the *Journal*, since the war, has been the detection and direction-finding of moving targets, such as motor transport, aircraft, ships &c., by virtue of the undulatory fields that can be shown (by rod, or electrical detectors) to be associated with them. Mr. Franklin, a Mr. G. Sherrin, and the writer all attacked this problem about the same time and obtained individual, but complementary, solutions of it that passed preliminary official tests. That solution has proved of considerable theoretical and instrumental importance in relation to dowsing science as a whole. And from such "advanced" electrical methods it is possible, we have found, to return to the simple divining rod, one's own nerves and muscles and a foot-rule, provided only that the form of the field in question and the general theory of radio-reception and dowsing reaction are roughly understood. The unscientific dowser need not, therefore, lose heart and imagine that dowsing is getting lost in a technical jungle with which he is not personally familiar.

On the contrary, the writer's own aim is to *reduce*, rather than to *increase*, the already rather overwhelming complexities. But in disentangling old knots fresh ones inevitably arise, at the outset; nor is the physics of dowsing at all simple. If it were, it would have been all explained long ago. But much of the novel complexity is probably more apparent than real, due to the temporary "knots" already mentioned, some of which may yet take years to resolve. But that should not prevent simple field practice from going ahead: only it must go ahead on the right, not the wrong, lines. *And until we understand just what is happening we cannot select the right lines.* Hence the need for continued research on rather involved and tiresome scientific lines. For in dowsing, underlying causes are not generally what they may seem to be! That is why so many mistakes and failures have occurred in common field practice, unless truly expert.

What our methods need are greater standardisation with a reduction in the number of individual techniques and methodologies. The aim of the Investigation Committee has been to give all claims a fair hearing and all methods that have been seriously put forward a fair testing without prejudice. As a result, many ideas have been found to possess a real basis in fact, but they do not all appear to possess equal merit, either in practice or theory. So that a sifting of the sheep from the goats has been necessary, with selection of what appeared to be best in each system. And the writer has been careful to try out various systems upon new students to see which might appeal to them most and/or yield best results. He cannot, therefore, be accused of partiality or prejudice.

As a result of these deliberations over more than ten years, certain general principles of dowsing have emerged, duly tried and purified by fire, so to say. These principles appear to embody all that is best in traditional practices and to make sense in the light of what is, so far, known of the physical theory of radiesthesia. But certain refinements and modifications to the commoner forms of dowsing have been incorporated in order to meet each fresh contingency in the field and each justifiable criticism by outsiders. Thus what had grown, at first, into a rather large and unwieldy snowball has, it is believed, at last been compressed or whittled away into quite a small and more durable hard core of clear ice. And the same process goes on with regard to theory also, which first grew to unwholesome proportions, but, later, began to condense to a more essential nucleus—a process that may long continue.

What has especially struck us throughout our work is the basic sameness and interrelation of the various categories of dowsing phenomena, showing that certain common principles underlie all, or nearly all, the reactions and methods recorded.

The evidence is, therefore, cumulative in favour of the sort of physical principles (duly refined and reduced) advanced in our book in 1939; though some amplification as well as some simplification will be needed in any subsequent publication. The question of samples and specific frequencies, for instance, was (purposely) not tackled earlier on. And this we hope to discuss in some detail next time, after the war. Teleradiesthesia, or dowsing at a distance and in a directional sense will also have to be explained—as it certainly can be explained. But the problems of map-dowsing and colour reactions are still unsolved, though we have made various preliminary observations on them. At present, however, these things still appear to us to border on, if not to be contained within, the psychological domain, though they are no less interesting or, at times, useful (in the right hands) for that reason.

Causes of Error and Failure

As already pointed out, rod or pendulum reactions may mean almost anything. The only way of being sure exactly what they do mean is to proceed in any given examination (indoors or out) in such a manner as to eliminate the various possible causes of reaction one by one. To do this is by no means easy, since it requires a quick appreciation of the likely local sources of dowsing radiation (*e.g.*, streams, pipes, cables, radioactive deposits, electric machinery, magnetic fields, &c., even strong beams of light or shade on the bare skin) within the given area before jumping to conclusions. And directly one begins to use specific samples or any directional technique further complications arise.

Yet we have found that, provided that one uses one's eyes and wits, marks out the self-evident sources of dowsing fields in advance, and follows a routine method of surveying, all will be well. The desired "target" and its associated electromagnetic field can then be isolated from the other unwanted ones, examined in detail for form and intensity, &c., and definite conclusions drawn. But there is bound to be a *best* way of setting to work in each case, and to find out that way has been our special task in recent years. Nor is it true that *any* way will serve: one will only get entangled, and so draw faulty conclusions.

Finally, there are various variable factors, as to spacing and intensity of the reaction zones and personal reaction thereto, that seem to be equally important after the desired "target" is isolated. The study of these variable factors has occupied more time and caused more trouble than anything else. They are a great nuisance in field dowsing, but they cannot be denied, unfortunately; and directly one or other of them has been put out of mind and due allowances not made or suitable precautions taken, faulty and inaccurate data on specific nature, vertical location, depth or yield have resulted. The reader's attention is, therefore, especially drawn to the following list. (See also our book).

List of Main Variable Factors

(1) Interference and overlapping of electric fields between adjacent conductors, streams or other objectives.

(2) Wave phase changes and polar reversals, shifting the R-bands.

(3) Radio intensity variations, affecting reaction strength.

(4) Electromagnetic (optical) reflection, refraction, dispersion, absorption, interference, diffraction and polarisation of the dowsing rays, resulting in corresponding dislocation, &c. (The nature, thickness, tilt, &c., of geological strata have to be considered here with reference to local conditions).

(5) Variability in relative sensitivity of the human or instrumental detector apparatus, which must be standardised as far as possible. (Health, fatigue and rod tension, &c., count here).

(6) The possibility of "positive" and "negative" reactions, due to bi-polarity of the two sides of the body, to the way in which the rod is held, to the orientation of the arms, &c., in the local dowsing field (as with a frame aerial in wireless), and objective phase changes and polar reversals, which seem to be the results of magnetic fields, electric "earthing," &c. Apparent shifting of the serial R-bands thus results.

(7) The superimposed "flow-field" effect obtaining to moving conductors, such as flowing streams of water, which complicates the ordinary (static) radio field in some cases.

(8) The "samples" effect, which gives some degree (not absolute or complete, *N.B.*) syntonisation, or "tuning" of the detector to various frequencies and wavelengths of radiation from different objectives. This is only in question where more subtle diagnosis is desired, and is not essential for streams, pipe lines, mineral veins, electric cables, &c.

(9) The fact that both human and instrumental detectors react to more than one kind or class of electromagnetic radiation, *e.g.*, short-wave wireless signals, visible light beams of fair intensity (especially the bluer and more actinic rays), ultra-violet rays, X-rays and gamma rays; also beams of high-speed electrons and, apparently, inductive magnetic fields of fluctuating intensity or alternating polarity. And these various sources can only be sorted out by means of careful scientific tests, involving various screening materials or special ways of approach, though some type of super gamma rays seems to be the chief source of stimulation, as a general rule. But these cause "beats" of wavelength 1-150 cms. or more.

(10) Directional pick-up of wireless-type stimuli, if and when the dowser or other detector does not keep on a straight course, also in passing by certain large conductors, electric machinery and through artificial (local) magnetic fields.

PART TWO

AN INSTRUMENT BASED ON THE BOVIS BIOMETRE

By W. E. BENHAM, B.Sc., F.Inst.P.

Part I

Introduction

Pressure of work prevents the proper treatment of this question at length, and all that will be attempted in this preliminary paper is the communication of a *modus operandi* which seems to me to be the most satisfactory among a number of methods for diagnosis based on radiesthesia. This curtailed presentation will perhaps be forgiven in view of the almost complete novelty of the biomètre to most British dowsers. It is hoped in Part II to give an account of some of the discoveries that I have been able to make in fields closely connected with therapeutics, from which our debt to Bovis's methods will be even more obvious than I hope it will be here.

Mrs. Tarpey has in several articles familiarised readers with the way in which the biomètre readings rise during the healing treatment. This aspect will be deferred to Part II.

The Bovis Instrument

This consists, essentially, of a metal strip (*wave guide*) which makes sliding contact with a lozenged-shaped piece of metal over which the pendulum is swung. At the extremity of the strip, to the left of the "lozenge," contact is made with the specimen to be tested, either directly (as when the thumb is placed on the end terminal) or indirectly (as when the thumb, or a print thereof made on paper, is connected by a species of *transmission line* to the said terminal). The length of strip contained between the end terminal and the left side of the lozenge determines a *Bovis reading* when the pendulum swings parallel to the long diagonal of the lozenge, that is, at right angles to the strip. The same reading (or readings, as we shall see later) is obtained with both direct and indirect methods, provided certain precautions are taken. These will be outlined in a special section. The specimen to be tested can be "any mortal thing," and since the length of "transmission line" can be several yards, the instrument lends itself to measurements of objects in inaccessible spots above or below ground. According to what I understand from Bovis's pamphlets, the lozenge is to be regarded as the "heart" of the instrument. The latter has also been credited with a species of "radioactivity." At the risk of appearing to

deprecate, I must pronounce both of these ideas as misleading. I have, for example, dispensed with the lozenge completely, and find the readings equally definite without it. The instrument is actually improved by the elimination of the lozenge, from the standpoint of rapidity in use. As to "radioactivity," the instrument lent me by Colonel Bell was tested for the presence of radioactive salt by bringing near to it a charged electroscope. No collapse of the leaves took place. Hence the "radioactivity," if it exists, is not of a type recognised by physics. Bovis also talks a lot about wavelengths, colours and the calibration of the instrument based on middle red (6,500° A) at one hundred degrees "Bovis." We shall have to defer discussion of these points to Part II, and content ourselves here with a bare description of my own instrument and its method of use.

Details for Making a Biometre

Any calibrated metal strip, or ruler, preferably not less than 1cm. in width and two feet in length, may serve as the foundation. If the metal strip is not self-supporting it may be stretched over a wooden board (a ceiling lath is satisfactory), then the board, rather than the strip, may be marked out. The marking should preferably be in white paint on a background of black or dark brown, so that the figures are clearly visible, even in a poor light. The instrument may either be marked out in centimetres or in Bovis degrees, or both if desired. Two centimetres equal ten Bovis degrees, *i.e.*,

$$2\text{cm.} = 10°\text{B} \text{ or } 1°\text{B} = 2\text{mm.}$$

At the left-hand end of the strip a silk cord is brought away at right angles. It is important to secure this cord exactly at the zero of the instrument (as may be done simply by means of a drawing pin), and to make it run substantially perpendicular to the instrument when in use. For contact with the specimen the cord is terminated by a probe, which may be a paper knife or any piece of metal. The metallic part of the probe is preferably of sufficient weight to make good contact with the specimen, and it is of great advantage to this end that the end of the probe not in contact with the specimen be raised a couple of inches, *e.g.*, by resting on a small wooden box. This ensures a certain thrust on the specimen. In order that the box used for this purpose be not represented on the biomètre its effect must be eliminated. If the specimen is a trace, such as a thumb or hand impression left on paper, the biomètre readings naturally include those corresponding to the base material (paper). In certain cases these may be a source of confusion, but in most cases the radiations from the specimen are the stronger and can be recognised. In cases of doubt the paper may be measured alone; in fact, if a given kind of paper is decided upon for thumb prints

it is good policy to test this paper carefully so that its readings are known. Six readings, lying in a typical case between 18°B and 130°B are characteristic of average quality paper. On the actual Bovis instrument the readings are all some 12°B lower due to the measurement being reckoned (as is arbitrary) not from directly underneath the pendulum but from the left-hand corner of the lozenge. To summarise thus far, we require

A wooden base board
A metal strip (say copper) } say 2 feet in length
White paint for signwriting
Silk cord
Probe } for extension to specimen

We shall refer to the question of *pendulum* under the next section.

Sample Elimination of Effects of Transmission Line, Paper Base or other Unwanted Effects (such as Coloured Light falling on the Specimen)

It will be obvious that, if special precautions are not taken, we shall tend to read the wrong thing on the biomètre strip. If the silk cord used for the transmission line is allowed to communicate its effects to the strip (wave guide) there will be found additional readings to those of the specimen under test. I find that if the pendulum is constructed with a suspension of the *same* silk as that used for the transmission line, or probe cord, these unwanted readings are eliminated. Now I have read that some dowsers work by sample elimination (that is, they carry in the pendulum hand that which they are not looking for but which might interfere), and other dowsers work by sample selection (that is, they hold that which they want to find). The use of a pendulum cord of the same material as the probe cord is evidently a special case of sample elimination, and it may be that I must be classed with dowsers using the first of the above methods. I would, however, say that it may not necessarily follow that if one is a "sample elimination" dowser when using the biomètre one must be the same type of dowser when prospecting for objects in the ordinary way. It does, however, seem to be the case with me; though the sample held does not always completely annul the reaction it certainly reduces it. If the sample be held, not in the pendulum hand but in the other hand, the sample elimination is apparently complete. I do not rejoice in this fact, rather is it a disappointment to me, as it would seem to mean that I am useless as a waterfinder in practice. There are, however, reasons to hope that as far as the biomètre is concerned I have every advantage in being a sample elimination dowser, and can confidently recommend similar dowsers to use the instrument. I would also appreciate reports from "sample selection" dowsers as to what they find using matched probe and pendulum cords.

Specimen Readings, Physical and Psychic

The most general application being that of medical diagnosis, we shall illustrate the use of the biomètre by reference to a typical example of a hypothetical patient whose thumb is supposed to be impressed upon the drawing pin of the instrument. The pendulum may be swung anywhere on the instrument, the centre of the swing being over the strip. If your instrument is sufficiently long, settings will be obtained at eight positions such as the following specimen readings: 50, 80, 150, 400, 1,000, 1,250, 1,500, 1850°B. For a two-foot instrument only the first three of the above string can be measured, but even so it is possible, if desired, to measure some way "off the end." These specimen readings are typical of a man, fully grown, in a state of health which on ordinary medical standards would probably be classed as satisfactory. The full question of the separate significance of any or all of these specimen readings must be referred to a later instalment. In addition to the above set there is a weaker reading called by Bovis the *psychic* reading, generally to be found between 180 and 240, but occasionally going below or above in the case of very stupid or very intelligent folk, respectively. Bovis only mentions two readings—the *physical* and the *psychic*. Bovis specifies certain rules for selecting the *physical* (which is the *third* reading of the set of 8, or if we exclude the readings below 100°B, the *first* reading) from the *psychic*. The physical, he explains, is to be measured off the tip of the thumb, the psychic off the ball of the thumb. This is all very well, provided one has the thumbprint. *It is, however, possible to get both physical and psychic readings off handwriting, the readings thus obtained agreeing within a point with those obtained off the thumb.* In this way it is possible to measure people one has never met without suspicion being aroused! For beginners it may be as well to adhere to Bovis's instructions.

Pitfalls in Operation

The difficulty is to know how to take the readings. It must, for example, be remembered, that between each reading there will be *minimum* positions where the pendulum swings at right angles to the tape. In these (spurious) positions the condition of the pendulum may be compared with that of Burdin's rational ass, which, finding itself placed midway between two equal and equally nutritious bundles of hay did not know which way to turn and consequently continued to look straight ahead (and eventually starved). A *minimum* may always be tested for by moving the pendulum one side or the other and watching the behaviour. The indications for the required *maxima* are the same as those obtained over the zero mark of the instrument (*i.e.*, the actual specimen).

If we agree to describe the pendulum as pointing *up* the instrument when the fore-end of its swing across the strip is

higher than the end nearest the operator, and *down* when the fore-end is lower than the rear end, then let us suppose that we start swinging the pendulum, when our specimen has "settled down" (which may take 60 seconds or so) then the pendulum will point *up* or *down* according as the desired reading is above or below the position tried. This means we try higher up, if the pendulum points up, until the pendulum swings straight across. Verbal descriptions are apt to be lengthy, and a good deal of experiment is essential prior to serious use of the instrument. To continue our example, if the patient is suffering from, say, kidney trouble, we may now tell him to place the probe on the back in a position to pick up radiations from the appropriate kidney, taking care that the cord does not touch any other area of his body but passes clear to the biomètre. Suppose the "physical" reading, instead of 150, is only 125. Then this difference gives a measure—a valuable measure—of the seriousness of the trouble. The whole body may be diagnosed in similar fashion. In case of misunderstanding it should be stated that owing to the provision on my instrument of means for eliminating the effects of the probe cord, the physical readings are somewhat higher than those cited by Bovis. Thus the range of physical readings (normal) as cited by Bovis is 120°—140°B, which rises to 132°—152°B when we allow for the half width of the lozenge which we no longer employ. On my instrument the range of "normals" is, rather, from 145°—180°B. In addition to matching of silk cords it is also desirable to incorporate on the pendulum a sample of the paper used for taking thumb or other impressions, though since readings for paper lie generally below the normal physicals, omission to do this might, in many cases, not be serious. These remarks refer to "elimination dowsers," but I am hoping that "sample selection" dowsers may also find the instrument an improvement over the Bovis model. There is some evidence that Bovis's instrument is defective for both types of dowser, as will be more fully explained in Part II. There is, for example, an important point in regard to *colours* which we shall there discuss. Meanwhile, it may be said that the readings due to colours *behave differently* to the general rule and can be easily distinguished from specimen readings by noting the action of the pendulum.

To be continued

PART THREE

DOWSING FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

By O. F. PARKER, A.R.S.M., M.A., F.S.A.

Egyptian history records that a very considerable amount of gold was derived from mines in Nubia about 2300 B.C., but work was discontinued on them as the yield fell considerably. During the Roman occupation of Egypt, about the beginning of the Christian era, operations were resumed, at any rate, in some of these mines. These ancient workings are slightly South of the Egypto-Sudanese border and are found inland, from the coast, for about 120 miles; their greatest extent towards the South is within some 90 miles of the Red Sea shore, the North to South distance being about 100 miles.

In the first decade of the present century certain mining interests sent exploratory expeditions to the sites of the ancient gold mines of Nubia to ascertain if they would afford prospects of a payable nature. I was attached to one of these expeditions, the destination of which was a site known as Onib, which is about 120 miles from the nearest Red Sea port, by name Mersa Helaib, approximately 100 miles North of Port Sudan.

The expedition arrived at Onib in October, 1905, the projected stay there being for two years' duration. Owing, however, to the intense heat, and sickness amongst some of the Europeans, it was found necessary to return to Europe for the summer months and go out again in the following autumn.

The workings at Onib comprised two sites, about two miles apart, which were called the Main and Western camps. At the former were found three veins of quartz; sometimes one of these had a schist wall along side it; one of these veins had been entirely removed for about $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles by three feet wide, varying in depth from one foot to 30 feet. The sum total length of the other two veins is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, widths and depths being much the same as those of the largest. At the Western camp there are but two excavated veins of quartz, each about half-a-mile long. We followed these up a sharp rise, 200 feet high, and down the other side, but, owing to the large amount of debris which encumbered the "vacant" veins, it was not possible to determine the depth of reef which had been removed.

The first work undertaken was to render the sides safe down to the base of the ancient working, generally 30 feet, and then to sink a shaft for another 30 feet; from the bases of these shafts drives were then made each way along the vein. The same method

was started at the Western camp, but, to our surprise, we struck the bottom of the old working at only three feet from the surface, and, at 3½ feet, we encountered water which, though slightly saline, was quite drinkable ; work was carried on only for another two feet when the rate of ingress of water rendered work, in the absence of a pump, impossible. In spite of this interruption of the work on this vein the water was most welcome, as, previously, the only other supply for the whole mining strength was from the only known well in this district, which was about four miles distant from each camp.

On our return to Onib in 1906 we brought a pump and steam boiler, which mastered the water, but only for a while, as its power proved quite insufficient to deal with the increased amount of water encountered when the shaft had been sunk to six feet ; after that, work had to be abandoned at this site. It is a curious fact that the deeper the shaft was sunk so did the alkalinity of the water increase ; it still remained potable (in a sense), but tended to augment, rather than diminish, thirst. None of the natives had any idea that this supply existed, and nowhere else, on the workings, was water met with.

As a matter of interest I brought some of the pottery fragments, found on the site, home with me, and these the British Museum dated as being Augustan, showing that the last workers on the Onib site operated during the Roman occupation of Egypt. This being so, it is curious that we found no traces of a well-head or other signs of the Romans having used this water supply.

At that time I was ignorant of dowsing else I might have had a most instructive experience in tracing the course of this unknown stream and might even have discovered traces of its having been used in the past. Since then I have become more enlightened and, having several photographs which I took of the Onib sites, I recently tried dowsing over them to ascertain if it were possible to obtain reactions, for water, from them.

The results were, to me, satisfactory in the main, but there were some reactions of the pendulum which I could not understand and I therefore wrote to Captain Trinder and asked him if he would, if I sent him the photographs, go over them and see what he could find, adding that I would send him the results of my own efforts. He agreed to go over the photographs, but stipulated that I should not send him the list of my results for some days after sending the photographs so as to let him try what he could find without any hint from my findings.

His markings of the position of the water in the vicinity of the pump, which I knew, were almost exactly in agreement with mine, and he also showed that the potability of the water was worse above the position of the pump than below it. He told me that he got this latter result by holding the pendulum over the stream until gyration was strong and then transferring it

to over his left hand when the gyrations would either slow down or reverse their direction, according to the potability of the water. This was new to me, but, on trying it, I found that I, also, could check the potability in this way.

Captain Trinder also agreed with the positions I had marked, in places where I had not previously known that water was present; but on one photograph of a place where no water had been found I had got a position which gave me only oscillation, and my wife also only obtained oscillation. He suggested that this position was not actually over the stream, but on one of the laterals, as he had marked a stream parallel to my position but farther away. I tested this and found that over the position which Captain Trinder had marked I got gyration, but that when the pendulum was moved back to the position which I had marked I obtained only oscillation.

My wife, who has never been to Onib, then followed Captain Trinder's stream until it faded out at the top of a ridge, but farther on, beyond the ridge, she again got gyration. This new gyration was probably from another stream, as the ridge, most likely, formed a watershed. There were other streams, on various photographs, in the positions of which we were in agreement, but there was no special feature about them except that they explained why vegetation grew in some parts of this desert, a fact which has always puzzled me. From my mistaking the lateral for the actual stream it would appear that the same phenomena are exhibited by dowsing over a map or a photograph as are found when dowsing in the field; perhaps other members have had similar experiences.

Captain Trinder and I have not yet met, so we have the extraordinary fact of two dowsers, who do not even know each other by sight, getting practically the same results from photographs taken years ago. I use the word "practically" because on a small snapshot it is not possible to get exactly the same positions, seeing that an error of 1/32nd of an inch would make a difference of several feet. Omitting the pump stream, the position of which I knew, any other water which I found on the photographs was new to me. Captain Trinder had never been in the Sudan and had probably never even heard of Onib, previous to my writing to him, and yet we both get the same positions for water. It would seem, therefore, that, however much the orthodox scientists may insist upon the impossibility of dowsing from maps, or photographs, there may still be some forces of which they know nothing but which may, in the future, be of the greatest service to exploratory expeditions by enabling them to forecast the probabilities of finding water.

MAP DOWSING FOR OIL

By PHILIP CHAPMAN, M.C., F.R.S.A.

I have just finished a very interesting test, and the result may be of some value to other dowsers. I was able to procure a survey map of a producing oil field and also a sample of the oil extracted. Not the slightest information was given me as to where the wells were nor the depth of same. I was merely told "All the land from the hills on the left to the limit of the map on the right is considered by our geologists and geophysicists as being oil-bearing lands and part has been proved by production." The plan was one inch to the mile. As the map was 24 inches wide and 36 inches long and no contours shown it looked a formidable job. However, having asked for it, I had to do my best.

I used Captain Trinder's method and dowsed all over the map, using a sample of the oil extracted. To make it easier for me to plot in the oil limits I ruled the map into squares of 2in. with a pencil. I then used a sample of oil in my right hand with the pendulum and dotted in the points with a blunt piece of cane, where I got a reaction. As there seemed some doubt as to how I should start, I decided to go over the outside squares first and then the next inside ones. Gradually I was able to find that all the area inside certain limits was oil bearing. To further prove whether my finding was correct or not I made some outline tracings of the map and marked in only the north point and one or two salient points of altitudes of hills. Again I ruled off the squares as before. I then "pointed" in the spots that gave a reaction and laid the copy over my original findings. There was very little error. I located two separate areas and wrote to the owners telling them of my findings but not giving them the exact limits, knowing the secrecy about letting others know what is happening, and also because I was not sure that I should be told whether I was right or not. As a matter of fact, the two areas I delineated were not where the wells had been bored, so I was asked to try over another place they indicated quite near the edge of the map. Proceeding along the same lines I found an area just inside the edge and extending on to a piece of paper, as indicated by Captain Trinder in his book *Dowsing*.

Inside the area I found a spot that gave no reaction to the oil sample and wrote to the owners telling them the limits I had got and saying that at the small spot marked I got no reaction, possibly a fault. Much to my surprise I received a letter telling me "Your delineation was approximately in accordance with that found by our geologists' and geophysicists' findings, but you have tripped up on the main point; the spot marked 'Possibly a fault' is actually where the wells have been bored." I had no idea where the wells were and was somewhat puzzled when I heard that the blank spot was the place.

Then a brain wave started me trying for other things. Firstly, water sample, then wood, and finally metal. After I had tested for metal with colours and also a sample several times I tried again with oil and got a strong reaction. It seems that the metal ray was cutting out the oil ray as there was no reaction to water or wood.

I then made a tracing of that particular area and worked over the copy with exactly the same results. The blank spot came again until I used a metal sample first, and when placing the copy over the original they fitted almost exactly. There seemed to be another spot for metal outside the area and this I presumed to be a dump or metal tanks. I also found what, I think, was a pipeline or rails. Now comes the statement that seems more extraordinary than my findings: I received a letter as follows: "In spite of the *non-agreement* (!) between your method and the conditions as proved by the drill, I repeat that it was an interesting experience, but after having discussed the matter with my Principals, I have, however, to confirm again, that it is the Company's wish that further correspondence must cease, as it is against the wish of the Head Office."

I understand that the geological and geophysical methods of testing for oil-bearing lands can only prove that the ground is suitable as oil bearing, but not actually oil bearing. And to find out whether the oil is still there or wandered off somewhere else, a bore has to be put down. All this seems a very expensive way of finding that there is nothing, when a map dowser could have told them in a couple of days that there was NO OIL at that particular spot.

Had a map dowser been asked to make a test near Tunbridge Wells and in Dorset, doubtless many thousands of pounds could have been saved in fruitless bore holes in 1937 and 1938. I made a casual test at the first place, on the spot, and got no reaction whatever, and drilling to a further 2,500 feet proved that it was a **BLANK.**

Surely it is now the time for geophysicists to co-operate with map dowsers in the same way as geologists. At any rate, a map dowser can be asked to make a test over known oil-bearing fields and his findings compared with those known to exist at a very much smaller expense and waste of time than as adopted at present. This should soon prove which map dowser was more accurate. I got reactions over the map with a pendulum and a sample, but it is more difficult to properly delineate the area. If any dowsers would like to test over a copy of the area I shall be pleased to send them one and in a sealed envelope my findings which were confirmed by the owners.

NOTES AND NEWS

Here are extracts from two letters from a member of the B.S.D. :—

"I wonder if any of our members have tried an amusing and, if I may add, useful experiment of finding wasps' nests with a dead wasp as a sample. I have had some good results, and some cross-bearings I have been unable to follow out owing to their crossing in other people's property. . . . Have you tried finding mushrooms? Use one on a piece of cotton as a pendulum. I certainly found many that I would have missed in the ordinary way, but I get many reactions over places with no mushrooms in sight. I put this down to the presence of spawn, but have never had the chance of trying this out by marking the spot and then coming back in a few days to see if one has come up! Another thing, if any member has a tortoise, let him allow him the run of the garden, he can soon be brought to heel with a piece of tortoise-shell as a sample. I have had great fun in doing this in the happier days of peace."

* * * * *

A correspondent in the U.S.A. writes that in his experience a source of error in getting the direction of a distant objective when using the pendulum (and possibly the rod) lies in not always using the same eye. One eye is the master eye and that should always be used.

* * * * *

In *The Surveyor* of February 23rd there was an elementary article called the "Mechanics of the Divining Rod" by a "Water Engineer," in which no reference was made to any modern book on dowsing or to the latest methods.

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According to the *Western Mail* of January 27th, a discussion took place in the Haverford West Town Council as to whether the advice of a dowser should be followed, or an experimental well sunk. The matter was referred to a committee.

* * * * *

In the *Western Mail* of February 3rd and several other papers reference was made to the fact that the Monmouthshire County Education Committee had employed a dowser to locate water on a farm at Glascoed, and that Lord Raglan had asked whether he had received any money out of public funds for his services. He had.

* * * * *

The death of Mr. Rowland Hill Pavey is referred to in the *Weston-super-Mare Gazette* of March 25th. He was a successful dowser who could find water with or without a divining rod. He conducted experiments in water finding at Downside Abbey, at Brislington and at Cheddar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 4th, 1944

Dear Colonel Bell,

Trinder has done a remarkable piece of *map*-dowsing on the 6-inch O.S. plan of Ditchley to-day, including the marking in of streams (surface) not marked on same, the points of rising and water-parting, and a big geological fault and two other changes in axis of foldings of the strata. I was very impressed indeed, and cannot think that these results were either due to inferences from the plan itself, or any normal information from myself or by telepathy from me in a fore-conscious sense. On the other hand, it *must* be a psychical faculty, since nothing could have been derived from the plan itself in physical terms. I also saw afterwards that he had corrected certain minor errors in my draughtsmanship, noted a northward kink in the one group of fissures (not shown on plan nor quoted by me), and got certain rough estimates of relative depth of the streams at various points that were of the right order.

This was, therefore, a first-rate demonstration, and it was done with impressive speed and surety while I looked the other way and thought of other things much of the time. In fact, telepathy and normal suggestion were guarded against as far as possible. . . . I therefore suggest, in the interest of Dowsing (? psychical aspect) that this note be published in the *Journal*. It would also be only fair to Trinder to make this acknowledgment publicly; and I am writing this immediately after our sitting while the facts are clear and fresh in my mind.

Yours faithfully,

J. CECIL MABY

26th January, 1944

Dear Sir,

I must admit that I have always been somewhat sceptical of the claims of those persons who say that they are able to feel an approaching storm with bare hands. However, I now find this quite easy to do and have yet to find an unprejudiced person who cannot do so, if he proceeds as follows:—

Hold a modified motorscope (*B.S.D.J.*, V., 35) either horizontally or vertically with outstretched arms and pointed towards the storm. A slight shock is soon felt, and if the pointing and searching actions are repeated several times without releasing the motorscope, then one should have become sufficiently charged (even when not standing on glass) as to be able to get a good result with an ordinary "Pogson." I hold no brief for the modified form; in fact, I have been told that the extra twists and wiring

are unscientific and contra-procedient, but my experience shows that everybody picks up the charges much more easily with the latter. Then change the Pogson motorscope for a piece of straight wire, an angle rod or even a *piece of wood*, held in the *left* hand, and eventually try with the bare hand. After this, try how many people the current will pass through, each holding his neighbour's left hand in his right, and you yourself sweeping your left hand across the sky. Some interesting facts will be noticed as regards the greater or less "resistance" to some members of the chain, both naturally and also when in good and poor health. Also the frequent change of polarity which takes place in some people.

Yours faithfully,

D. O. KING

March 11th, 1944

Sir,

I was much interested in the article in your March number, 1944, by Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Edwards. He speaks of the radiation of life in organic matter. It is interesting to hold a pendulum over various plants. Animals have a very powerful vibration. The trunks of trees, less obvious. My teacher, the Abbé Revenant, was a most gifted dowser, and he told me that the radiation of certain plants was inimical to others, and that they should never be near each other, even in pots. I then noticed how often this was the case. One day a freshly cut bunch of mixed flowers in a vase was obviously dying (within two or three hours). I took the flowers out, one by one, trying the pendulum till I found the culprit. I then removed it and put the rest of the flowers back in the same vase, in the same water. And they immediately revived.

The Abbé R. taught me to hold the pendulum between two objects. If it swung from one to the other, the relations were harmonious; if the swing cut at right angles between the objects they were harmful to each other. He taught me to do this with certain foods or medicines. One needn't open a box of pills, for instance, as the radiation goes through. He also used to test soil for the planting of seeds, in the same way. The trouble about dowsing is that as it seems due to a nervous reaction on the part of the dowser, one cannot infallibly count on the results. Too great a desire to succeed, or to prove a case, or personal anxiety about a special test may upset the dowser, and inhibit his power. I think the mental attitude of a dowser should be, for the moment, impartial and negative.

Yours faithfully,

N. EVELYN SANDS

Dear Sir, *April 14th, 1944*

I have read with interest the various articles that have been published in the *Journal* on the subject of reactions that are associated with certain *pathological* conditions.

I venture to suggest that it would be very interesting to know what sort of reactions are produced in association with certain types of *healthy* people, viz., individuals who have a contrasting *mental* "make up."

These types could include the persistently lucky, with their opposite the persistently unlucky. The "good mixer" and the shy; the restless and the contented; the bold and the retiring; and many other contrasting types of individual.

It is, of course, possible that some investigations in this direction have already been made.

Yours truly,

W. ADAM WOODWARD

* * * * *

Dear Colonel Bell, *12th May, 1944.*

If you think the enclosed* are of interest for our *Journal*, please use them.

One point which may be of interest to others is, as I had no "samples" of teeth, I used my own to define which teeth were infected. As I have previously found, what was indicated on me as LEFT side was reversed on the patient as RIGHT side.

Some time ago, about 1939, a blood spot was brought me by a friend more as a "catch" than anything else. The owner of the blood spot had met with an accident and broken a bone; could I locate it? On feeling myself all over as a sample I said, "Yes, the bone of the LEFT leg about an inch above the ankle is broken." Except that it was the RIGHT leg this was correct.

This was my first experience of reversed sides when using one's self as a sample.

Another point worth noting in the incident related above, the friend who brought the sample knew the location of the broken bone and therefore suggestion cannot be ruled out. But! in the first case mentioned the blood spot came by post. Suggestion? I hardly think so.

I might add that frequently I do not see my patients; in fact, many live in Wales, Scotland or elsewhere abroad. There has been no physical contact, my knowledge of them has been through the blood spot alone.

In short, the blood or urine sample indicates everything, the locality of the patient hardly matters.

Yours sincerely,

GLADYS BARRACLOUGH

* Correspondence describing a case of correct dental diagnosis.

P.S.—Correspondence is invited from others regarding this "reversal law."

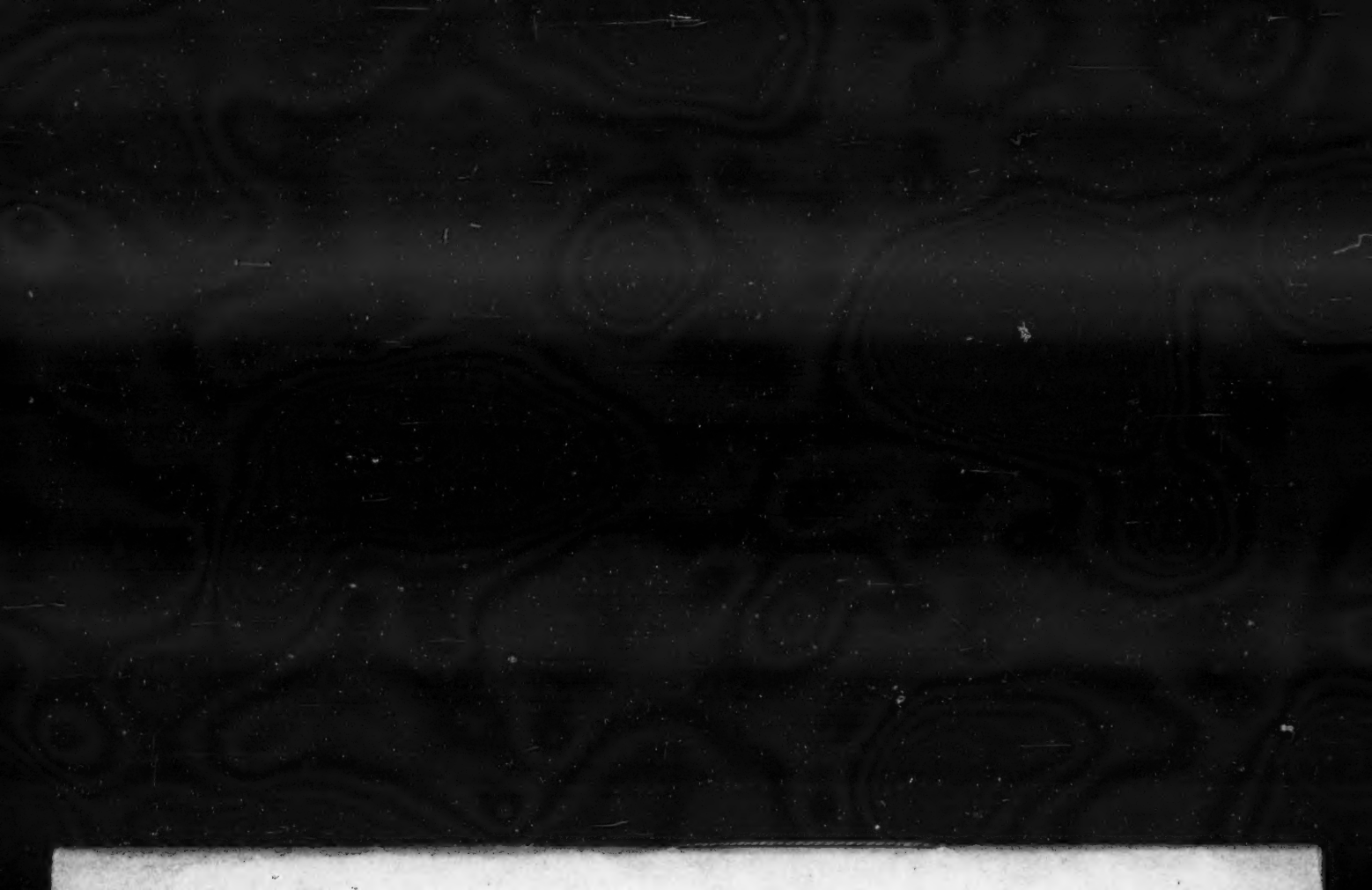
REVIEW

ABOUT PENDULUMS
and things we thereby detect

PENDULUM PLAY, a scientific pastime needing no knowledge of science. Written for boys, girls and people of all ages, by Noel Macbeth.

Mr. Macbeth has courageously attempted to present a much needed booklet to popularise dowsing and dowsing experiments. It claims to attract both juvenile and adult, in itself one of the most difficult things to accomplish. The tender age which would accept "It will be fun to tell whether insects you dig up are 'little boys' or 'girls,' of page 4 or, as on page 13 "a suspended bodkin which is a length of steel hanging up and down" would hardly follow the rest of the book. Whereas such unnecessarily words and involved passages as on page 26, "We might for a moment consider the case of detection in the vertical, that is to say below a diviner's feet. A line in the vertical is only one of the many that are included in a vertical plane. The so-called lines of magnetic force joining the Earth's poles to a magnet's poles are lines that are part of vertical planes; each such plane may be visualized as occupying positions taken by places on a wall's surface, which is a vertical and plane surface. Attraction of something below a diviner, is attraction in one direction out of two which may be considered possible parts of a vertical plane; so, experiments performed in the horizontal direction and those performed in the vertical are considered as concerned with the same vertical plane containing the horizontal and vertical lines of direction." I find thoroughly mystifies the non-dowsing adult, to say nothing of the juvenile with "no knowledge of science."

There are certainly many interesting experiments and statements in the little book which can only be appreciated by the experienced dowser. In short, Mr. Macbeth has packed it too full. *Pendulum Play* should be considerably shortened and simplified to attract the curiosity and interest of a public, only too inclined to drop anything that calls for more than a slight concentration.

G.M.B.

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